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REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1-14 and 20-26 are withdrawn and cancelled, without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to seek the subject matter of any withdrawn claim. Claims 15-19 are currently being amended. Claims 27-41 are being added. This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Applicants have included an Information Disclosure Statement including U.S. patents cited in co-pending Application Serial No. 09/670,971.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 15-19 and 27-41 are now pending in this application.

In paragraphs 1-7 of the Office Action, the Examiner has restricted the claims of application. As discussed in the Office Action. Applicants have provisionally elected Group II, claims 15-19. The Examiner has withdrawn claims 1-14 and 20-26. Added claims 27-41 are drawn to the subject matter of Group II.

In paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Office Action, claims 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for indefiniteness. The Examiner states:

Claims 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. As for claim 15, the structure of the steps within the claim is not clearly identified and well organized, and the use of "coupling" is not appropriate because "a signal" is not normally "coupling" to a display unit, i.e., the signal is transmitted or received instead, as well as "said superimposed data being coupled to said electronic

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unit" is technically incorrect, because a device is perfectly fine "coupled to" another device, but not "the data: since the data is suing the medium such as a cable coupled between devices for transmission. Revision and appropriate correction for a better claim language is required.

Applicants have amended claims 15-19 in accordance with the Examiner's comments.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 15-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The amendments to claims 15-19 are not made in a limiting fashion and are only made for clarity. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 15-19 are entitled to their full range of equivalents.

In paragraphs 10 and 11, claims 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,973,722 (Wakai). The Examiner states:

Regarding claim 15, in addition to the Rejection 112-2nd above (and to the best understanding from the Examiner), Wakai discloses "a system for gathering data from a commercial airline display unit" (Figs. 1 & 5, and col. 3/line 9-44), the system comprising "an electronic unit for requesting and receiving data, said electronic unit requesting said data by coupling a first signal to the commercial airline display unit a predetermined number of times within a predetermined time interval", i.e., a passenger control unit handles this on-demand task for requesting and receiving data (video and audio) requested by the user at an LCD display unit on an in-flight entertainment system at certain times preferred by the user (col. 6/line 54 to col. 7/line 12 and col. 8/line 54 to col. 9/line 20); "said airline display unit receiving said data request and superimposing said data in the form of a serial data stream upon a static status signal, said superimposed data being coupled to said electronic unit; and "a receiver within the electronic unit receiving and decoding the superimposed data", i.e., the LCD display provides an interactive system for the user at the passenger seat as the user requests or sends a command signal for an on-demand feature whether for a video, audio, or telephone calls, the display provides a superimposed data as a status display on the LCD screen for the user based on the detection of the control unit operated by the user, and the in-flight system comprises a receiver for receiving and decoding the digital stream

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(Fig. 5, and col. 8/line 54 to col. 10/line 18; col. 12/lines 16-44 for a keyboard and a touch screen interface; and col. 19/line 20 to col. 20/line 44 for MPEG on demand interactive system for digital stream format addressed).

As for claim 16, Wakai further discloses "comprises a commercial aircraft tapping unit" i.e. a zone bridge unit works as a tap in providing services to distinct groups of passengers such as for two-seat electronics units and/or three-seat electronics units (Fig. 12/item 140, and col. 7/lines 45-61 & col. 17/lines 5-40).

As for claims 17 and 19, this limitation is met as Wakai discloses to use an ARINC interface unit (Fig. 5/items 540 & 548).

Although Wakai is not using an ARINC 722 connector and pin 8 for "on indicator" and pin 6 for power control input; however, this limitation is admitted as in the prior art being developed by the ARINC company within the specifications (pages 2-4).

As for claim 18, Wakai discloses "wherein the first signal is the power control on signal" (Fig. 5/item 552 for a power control I/O keylines for interfacing between the user and the system).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Independent claim 15 recites a unique technique which provides superimposed data in an airline display system. Claim 15 specifically recites:

said airline display unit receives the first signal and superimposes data upon a static status signal.

The static status signal is a particular type of signal. The present applications states:

In general there are two types of status signals. The first type may be referred to as a "static" status signal. A static status signal is one that continually indicates the status of a parameter. An example of a "static" status signal is the on indicator signal on pin 8 of an ARINC 722 connector. Pin 8 of an ARINC 722 connector provides a nominal 28-volt "on indicator" signal indicating that the display unit 211 is operating. When the unit is not operating pin 8 of an ARINC 722 connector provides a nominal 0-volt signal indication that the display unit 211 is off. The "on indicator"

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signal on pin 8 may be examined at any time to determine the current operating status of the display.

See, present application page 14, lines 5-12. Therefore, claim 15 recites that the system uses a particular type of signal -- a static status signal -- to provide the superimposed data. This technique provides significant advantages, especially when applied in the field of aircraft display units.

Such a feature is not shown, described or suggested in Wakai. Wakai appears to merely be discussing the transmission of modulated data over an in-flight entertainment system in a conventional fashion. The use of a static status signal for superimposition of data is not disclosed. The sections of Wakai cited by the Examiner appear to be main communication channels and do not appear to be for providing static status signals. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 of claim 15 and its dependent claims 16-19 and 27-30 is respectfully requested because each and every limitation is not disclosed or suggested by Wakai.

Applicants further respectfully submit that the dependent claims 17-30 each recite features which are additionally not shown, described or suggested by Wakai. With respect to dependent claims 17, 19, 28 and 29, Wakai does not even mention ARINC the placement of status signals on particular pins of those connectors. The Examiner's reference to the existence of ARINC connectors does not supply any motivation to choose the particular pins recited in claims 17, 19, 28 and 29. Accordingly, claims 17, 19, 28 and 29 are patentable over Wakai.

Further, claim 16 recites that a commercial aircraft tapping unit is the electronic unit that provides the first signal and receives the superimposed data. There is no suggestion for this function in an aircraft tapping unit in Wakai. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner is improperly using hindsight to pick and choose features from Applicants' own disclosure to provide a suggestion. Thus, dependent claim 16 is additionally patentable over Wakai.

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Dependent claim 28 describes additional signals which are provided along pin 6 of the ARINC connector and a delay circuit. None of these features for use on such a system are shown, described or suggested in Wakai. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 28 is additionally patentable over Wakai.

It is respectfully submitted that new independent claim 31 and its dependent claims 32-38 and new independent claim 39 and its dependent claims 40-41 are patentable for similar reasons.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 18-1722. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 18-1722.

Respectfully submitted,

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